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SRI O. KORAN :—" May I know whether Government have any statistics regarding the cottage industries now prevalent or do they propose to start cottage industries like coir, mat-making, etc.? If so when do they propose to start them? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " Cottage industries also will be given some relief. That matter is also under our active consideration."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" What are the wages paid to the workers? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " I do not exactly know what the wage rate is."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that famine conditions in Nattika firka have become more or less semi-permanent and since we know that between the sanctioning of a work and its actual starting, some months or years might elapse, will the Hon. Minister inform us whether work has actually started in that area to give redress to the famine-affected people? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " When sanction has been accorded for a work, it means that it will be started and finished. I hope the work must have started."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know whether the Government have declared the area as a famine-affected area and applied the Famine Code and, if not, why are the Government giving only famine wages and not the normal wages? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— 10·20 a.m. " Without declaring the area as famine-affected, all necessary reliefs are sought to be given by sanctioning these works. As to the wage level, it is fixed under the law of supply and demand and the Collector is the best authority to decide it."

Construction of a new calingula to Theradikulam, Pattukkottai taluk.

* 259 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Food Production Department in Pattukkottai taluk of Tanjore district have constructed a new calingula to Theradikulam in Keeramangalam Vattam of Pattukkottai taluk in Tanjore district;

(*b*) whether the ryots in Mangadu village of Pudukkottai division in Tiruchirappalli district have made any representations that the construction of the new calingula to increase the water-spread area of the tank has injuriously affected the fields of the foreshore lands of Theradikulam;

(*c*) if so, the extent of damage to crops and lands; and

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(*d*) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the legitimate interests of the landowners of the foreshore?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) to (*d*) The information is not readily available. A report is being called for from the Superintending Engineer (Food Production) and on receipt of his report the matter will be looked into."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" With due deference to the Hon. Minister, may I know where the need was for including this question in the list of questions for to-day if the required information was not available? Further, I have given notice of a short-notice question. In view of the fact that the officials concerned are acting high-handedly, terrorising the villagers and contributing to the growth of hostilities between the residents of the two villages, I would request the Hon. Minister to take the matter on hand and see how best he could solve the problem."

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The mistake lies with the hon. Member himself. He asked me to waive notice and I waived notice in good faith. But the information is not readily available. Having himself asked me to waive notice, he puts the blame on me now."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know when this question was admitted by the Speaker for answer by the Minister and why there should be delay? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member gave notice of a starred question. Since he gave notice of a short-notice question also on the same subject, the Hon. Minister has answered the starred question giving the position with reference to that matter."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I am not concerned with the short-notice question. I am concerned only with the inclusion of this question in the list of questions for to-day when the Hon. Minister is not in a position—I mean no offence to him personally—to furnish the details."

MR. SPEAKER :—" This answer was given because the hon. Member gave notice of a short-notice question on the same subject."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" The Assembly cannot switch on to the convenience of one Member."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Sri Vinayakam has not understood me properly. The hon. Member gave notice of a starred question. Since he gave notice of a short-notice question also on the same subject subsequently, the Hon. Minister has answered the original starred question with the particulars that he had on hand."